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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,513	06/24/2003	Ilya Makhlin	A2-065 US	8764
23683	7590	08/19/2004	EXAMINER	
MOLEX INCORPORATED 2222 WELLINGTON COURT LISLE, IL 60532			KANG, JULIANA K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,513

Applicant(s)

MAKHLIN ET AL.

Examiner

Juliana K. Kang

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Inventorship

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: the reference number 43 mentioned in page 5 line 8 is not shown in any of drawing.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: reference number 50a is shown in Fig. 3 but not mentioned in the description. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office

Art Unit: 2874

action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. An incorrect reference number is used for the key ring in page 6 line 9. It should be corrected to 42.

Applicant's assistance is requested to correct any other errors that may be noticed in the application.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 6 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 6 recites the limitation "said first key comprises a recesses keyway in the key ring and said second key comprises a key member projecting from the through passage of the housing." It appears that the first key and second key needs to be switched around in the claim. The key ring is the one that has the second key (please see claim 1 line 10 and claim 13 lines 5). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent 6,655,851 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Lee discloses a fiber optic connector assembly comprising: an outer connector housing (26) having a front mating end, a rear end and a through passage extending between the ends and defining an optical axis, the housing having a first key (60) in the passage at a given position angularly about the optic axis; an inner optical fiber plug (28) for terminating at least one optical fiber cable, the plug being disposed in the through passage in the housing with a front ferrule (20) portion of the plug terminating the optical fiber at the front mating end of the housing, with the fiber optic cable extending from the rear end of the housing (see column 1 lines 5-17); a key ring (52) rotatably mounted about the plug and fixable on the plug at selected positions of rotational adjustment (see column 1 lines 60-65), the key ring having a second

Art Unit: 2874

key (56) lockable with the first key on the housing once the key ring is fixed on the plug (see column 2 lines 1-6). Please note it has been held that the functional "whereby" statement does not define any structure and accordingly cannot serve to distinguish. Anyhow, Lee discloses rotating the plug to obtain a desired rotational alignment of the optical fiber and fixing the optical fiber cable in position relative to the connector using keys so that the rotational alignment of the optical fiber is maintained (see column 1 lines 5-17).

Regarding claims 2 and 6, Lee discloses the first key comprising a recessed keyway (62) in the through passage of the housing, and the second key (56) comprising a key member projecting from the key ring (see Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 3, Lee shows the claimed limitation in Fig. 4.

Regarding claim 4, Lee discloses the recessed keyway that is located in a socket in the through passage of the housing for receiving a plug portion of the optical fiber plug, the key ring being disposed about and fixable to the plug portion (see column 4 line 53-65).

Regarding claims 7-10 and 12, as described above Lee discloses the claimed invention.

Regarding claims 13-17 and 19, as described above Lee discloses the method of adjusting the rotational position of an optical fiber angularly of an optic axis in a fiber optic connector assembly including locking the first and second keys (see claim 2 of Lee).

Art Unit: 2874

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 5, 11 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee.

As described above Lee teaches fixing the key ring to the plug except an adhesive (see column 4 lines 53-60). Using an adhesive in an optical fiber art is well known to provide extra bonding strength. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an adhesive in Lee to provide extra bonding strength.

Conclusion

9. The prior art documents submitted by applicant have been considered and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO-1449).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juliana K. Kang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2348. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. & Fri. 10:00-6:00 and Tue. & Thur. 10:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rod Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The

Art Unit: 2874

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Juliana Kang
August 17, 2004